

#36

6/13/16
Grand Rapids Home

6/11/16

Introduction

pg 1 of 1

Name: Jerry Lucksted
Served in the United States Navy

Thank you Chairmen and Committee members for making this historic event happen today and for being here. & also, Thank you residents for coming forward today.

My name is Jerry Lucksted and I am President of Veterans for Justice. The home has approximately 430 residents, a majority of which belong to our Veterans for Justice group.

Veterans for Justice is an origination within the home formed by residents to meet and discuss concerns or ideas.

Veterans for Justice goals include improving life at the home, with a focus on residents rights and quality care our Veterans earned.

Veterans for Justice was not allowed to meet under the past Administration. In fact, some members were not allowed to wear a Veterans for Justice T- shirt on home grounds, and meeting place notice posters were pulled down from bulletin boards.

Former Administration stooped two critical meetings in June of 2014, there were gross violations to residents' Constitutional rights to assembly and speech. So, we thank the new Administration for allowing us to resume meetings and for working with us towards a positive change.

While I was able to testify before you in Lansing, many residents with disability's were not able to travel to Lansing and testify. But my fellow Veterans have earned the right to have their voices heard. So with your help today, residents will come before you to discuss issues of relevance to them at the home.

They will call your attention to matters you should be aware of as legislators, in hopes you, being in a position to make positive change, will do so. The bottom line, much is good about the home. However, as confirmed by the audit we are discussing, it has a dangerously dark side that must see the light of day.

There are many good caregivers, and many great aspects to the home. But, have no doubt, past lack of accountability has resulted in needless deaths, inadequate care and many avoidable crises.

We urge the members to be honest and candid with you. We also remind members that while we are passionate and heated on these issues, we must keep discussions civil and respectful of each other.

Our thanks and appreciation to everyone here today, and those who helped make this day a reality.